

101 W. Washington Street Suite 1170 East Indianapolis, IN 46204 317-232-1233 www.IN.gov/CJI

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Governor's Task Force on Drug Enforcement, Treatment, and Prevention Wraps Up First Meeting in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS – The Governor's Task Force on Drug Enforcement, Treatment, and Prevention hosted its first meeting in Indianapolis on Wednesday, September 16. The following individuals offered presentations:

- Dr. Tim Kelly, Community Health Network
- Judge Mark Smith, Hendricks County Superior Court
- Sheriff Brett Clark, Hendricks County Sheriff's Office
- Dr. Andy Chambers, Midtown Community Mental Health and Addiction
- Dr. Dean Babcock, Midtown Community Mental Health and Addiction
- Linda Grove-Paul, Centerstone
- Judge Steven Nation, Hamilton County Superior Court

In addition to the scheduled presentations, Dr. Carrie Cadwell, President-Elect of the Indiana Psychological Association, and Justin Phillips, President and Founder of Overdose Lifeline, Inc., offered public comment.

At the completion of the meeting, a list of action items were discussed. After taking a vote, the Task Force agreed to present the following recommendations to the Governor:

- Direct agencies to examine the feasibility of pursuing the <u>Section 1115</u> waiver, which would allow Indiana to alter current federal Medicaid policy so the full continuum of treatment services is available to the Medicaid and HIP population
- Direct agencies to raise awareness on Aaron's law (<u>SEA 406-2015</u>), which Governor Pence signed into law this year to allow individuals to obtain and administer lifesaving overdose intervention drugs
- Direct the Department of Workforce Development to work closely with existing youth assistance programs and identify best practice models to replicate statewide

For additional information about the Task Force, as well as a list of resources, post-meeting recordings, minutes, presentation materials, and upcoming agendas, please visit: www.drugtaskforce.in.gov.

Established by Executive Order, the Task Force will bring together Indiana experts from a variety of specialties to evaluate the growing national drug problem here in Indiana. Future Task Force meetings include Evansville in October and South Bend in November; information about these meetings will be released at a later date.

Media Contact: Adam Baker Communications Director

(317) 417-8562; <u>adbaker@cji.in.gov</u>